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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7723**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 580**

**NOTE PREPARED: Jan 16, 2007**

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Various Election Matters.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Breaux

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Poll Closing Time-* The bill requires the polls in each precinct to close at 9 p.m. rather than 6 p.m. on election day. The bill provides that the time at which half-day precinct election officers change is 1:30 p.m. rather than noon on election day.

*Absentee Ballots-* The bill allows the county election board to count during its canvass absentee ballots that are: (1) received after noon and before the time the polls close on election day; or (2) overlooked by a precinct election board. The bill makes conforming amendments.

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Poll Closing Time-* Additional hours of operation could lead to increases in local expenditures for per diem of precinct election board members. Any actual increase to local expenditures would depend on the decision of each county executive or town fiscal body to adjust the per diem. Any increases in expenses that are not personnel-related would also depend on each precinct's requirements for use of election supplies and facilities for three additional hours.

*Background Information:* Based on a small sample of Indiana counties, per diem for election board members range from \$65 to \$150 for inspectors and from \$40 to \$100 for judges, clerks, and sheriffs.

A precinct has the following election officers.

Type of Officer	Number
Inspector	1
Judge	2
Poll Clerk	2
Sheriff	2
Asst. Poll Clerk	2 (Optional)

*Absentee Ballots-* The bill would increase the administrative responsibilities of county election boards in non-central count counties. Instead of sending absentee ballots received to precinct election boards to count after the polls close, the county election board would count absentee ballots during canvassing.

*Background Information-* There are 42 counties that currently do not count absentee ballots centrally that would be affected by this provision of the bill. During the 2004 general election 260,550 voters voted via absentee or about 10.4% of total voters voting. The 2006 primary election saw 61,345 voters voting absentee or about 7.2% of total voters voting.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** Counties, towns, and precincts.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Election Division.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.